



Jobs Act for Public K-12 & Higher Education Institutions

Walla Walla Public Schools

About the Jobs Act:

The Jobs Act for Public K-12 and Higher Education Institutions was funded through the 2010 Supplemental Capital Budget – ESHB 2836 Section 1016. \$50 million was given to Commerce. Commerce awarded 77 grants totaling \$42.5 million. Walla Walla Public Schools are located in the 16th Legislative District. For more information:

www.commerce.wa.gov

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Walla Walla's first junior high school gets a makeover

Walla Walla Public Schools educates a diverse population of nearly 6,000 students. The district is comprised of: one high school, one secondary alternative education center, two middle schools, six elementary schools, and a child development center hosting HeadStart/ECEAP programs. The district offers a wide range of special programs and courses.

Situation:

Walla Walla's 62-year-old Pioneer Middle School has had its share of hard knocks over the years. In 1999 a fire gutted most of it. The insurance money didn't cover installing all new

energy efficient equipment; so much of the original equipment was still being used. The meticulously maintained equipment was well past its prime.

Solution:

The district's first priority was replacing old gas fired boilers that produced steam heat for the classrooms. All of the classrooms were heated by a loop system under the floors. There was no way for teachers to individually control the heat in their classrooms. And operable windows

Project Highlights:

- *Replacing old inefficient boilers with heat pumps*
- *Installing new lighting throughout Pioneer's hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, stage, and gym*
- *Upgrading Pioneer's pneumatic controls to direct digital controls and linking them to the district's energy management system*
- *Estimated annual energy savings \$14,000*





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Dan Johnson

Director of Facilities & Operations

and window room air conditioners provided the only cooling. Teachers and students often found themselves in a vicious circle. When the classroom got too hot, they opened the windows. The cooler air automatically kicked the steam heat on and the classroom just got hotter. The district replaced the old boilers with heat pumps, which are expected to save \$4,900 annually and greatly improve the learning environment.

All new lighting throughout Pioneer’s hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, stage, and gym is producing “wows” from students, teachers, and staff. In addition to being the district’s energy manager, John Butenhoff also coaches wrestling. When he first walked into the gym after the new high bay fluorescent lights were installed he hardly recognized it. “The gym lighting is beautiful and I really noticed the difference,” Butenhoff said. The new lighting is expected to save \$8,900 annually.

Pioneer was a difficult building to control. Part of the school’s equipment was controlled by the

district’s energy management system while other equipment was controlled manually. Upgrading the school’s pneumatic controls to direct digital controls and linking them to the district’s energy management system brings the whole school under district control. “What we weren’t able to control in the past, we can control now,” said Dan Johnson, Walla Walla Public Schools director of Facilities and Operations.

Results:

Pioneer is well on its way to becoming energy efficient and helping the district lower its energy usage even more.

“The Jobs Act funding really jumped started the project, said Johnson. We wouldn’t have been able to do the project without these funds.” The new energy technologies are expected to save \$14,000 annually.

“These savings are going right back into our buildings. They will help pay for the two new boilers we are putting in next summer,” said Johnson.



Measures:

- ***HVAC – heat pumps, cooling tower, heat pump loop piping***
- ***Energy Management System***
- ***Lighting***
- ***Commissioning***

Total project costs: \$818,688

Estimated annual savings: \$14,000

Grant award amount: \$350,000